



## Medical PA Criteria Proposal

Medical Procedure Class:	<b>CT Head or Brain v1.3</b>
Date:	<b>June 12, 2007</b>
Prepared for:	
Prepared by:	ACS-Heritage Information Systems, Inc.

☒ **New Criteria**

☐ **Revision of Existing Criteria**

### Executive Summary

<b>Purpose:</b>	To identify and discourage the inappropriate use of high tech, high cost diagnostic imaging	
<b>Why was this Issue Selected:</b>	Studies indicate that for certain common presenting signs and symptoms there is a low yield of positive findings for potentially treatable lesions from CT of the Head or Brain	
<b>Procedures subject to Pre-Certification</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 70450 Computed tomography, head or brain; without contrast material</li><li>• 70460 Computed tomography, head or brain; with contrast material(s)</li><li>• 70470 Computed tomography, head or brain; without contrast material, followed by contrast material(s) and further sections</li></ul>	
<b>Setting &amp; Population:</b>	All Medicaid fee-for-service patients	
<b>Type of Criteria:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Increased risk of ADE</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Appropriate Indications</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Non-Preferred Agent</b> <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Data Sources:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Only administrative databases</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Databases + Prescriber-supplied</b>

### Setting & Population

- Procedure Group for review: CT of Head or Brain
- Clinical Indications: Isolated, Nontraumatic Headaches; others tbd
- Age range: All patients

## Approval Criteria

Condition	Submitted ICD-9 Diagnoses	Date Range
Migraine/non-traumatic headache	346-346.9, 784	12 months
History of localized neurologic signs or subjective numbness or tingling	368-368.47, 368.8, 368.9, 782.0, 781-781.99, 784.5, 780.4	12 months
History of lack of Motor Coordination	781-781.99	12 months
Conditions predisposed to intracranial pathology; history of HIV-positivity or cancer, or other populations at high risk (e.g. immunocompromised patients)	042, 191-191.9, 225, 228.02, 237.7, 279.3, 288-288.9, 340, 331.4, 341-341.9, 742-742.9	12 months

### Patients with non-acute headache accompanied with or described as:

- History of cancer
- History of localized neurologic signs or subjective numbness or tingling
- Rapidly increasing frequency of headache
- History of lack of motor coordination
- History of headache causing sleep disruption
- Sudden severe (“thunderclap”) or headache radiating to the neck
- Temporal headaches in individuals aged 55 and older
- Conditions predisposed to intracranial pathology: history of HIV-positivity, or other populations at high risk, e.g. immunocompromised patients

## Denial Criteria

### Patients with isolated, non-acute headache without any of the above and who:

- Normal neurologic examination
- Have had a CT or MRI of the Head or Brain in the last 60 days

## Required Documentation

Laboratory results: ☐  
MedWatch form: ☐

Progress notes: ☐

## References

1. Health Care Guideline: Diagnosis and Treatment of Headache. Institute for Clinical Systems Improvement, January 2007; 8<sup>th</sup> Edition: -72.
2. Choksi V. Imaging of Acute Stroke. Applied Radiology 2005; 34: 1-19.
3. Cortelli P, Cevoli S, Nonino F, et. al. Evidence-Based Diagnosis of Nontraumatic Headache in the Emergency Department: A Consensus Statement on Four Clinical Scenarios. Headache 2004; 44: 587-595.
4. Edlow JA, Caplan LR. Avoiding Pitfalls in the Diagnosis of Subarachnoid Hemorrhage. New England Journal of Medicine 2000; 342: 29-36.
5. Grayson S, Neher JO. When is Neuroimaging Warranted for Headache? Journal of Family Practice; 2005; 54: 1-4.